

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Fred Zollinger on 2/12/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 36-38.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 23-27, 30, 32, 39, 42-49, 69, 71-74 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Per claims 23, 26, the reference to Reed does not show the outer muntin grid elements (28, 30) surrounding the inner muntin grid elements or substantially surrounding the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner muntin grid element from view as the channels (38, 39) allows for viewing of the inner grid elements.

Per claim 39, , the reference to Reed does not show the outer muntin grid element (9) in the form of a tube disposed around the inner muntin grid element to hide the inner grid element from view on both sides of the unit as the channels (38, 39) allows for viewing of the inner grid elements.

Per claim 44, prior art does not show in combination an inner muntin grid element and an outer grid element used to form a muntin grid piece in a simulated divided lite window having an insulating chamber; the muntin grid piece being adapted to be disposed within the insulating chamber of the simulated divided lite window; the outer muntin grid element being adapted to fold around the inner muntin grid element; a plurality of spaced corners and a cross sectional perimeter dimension measured about a cross section viewed normal to the longitudinal direction of the inner muntin grid element; the combination comprising:

an outer muntin grid element having a body having a width and a longitudinal direction; the body having spaced longitudinal ends that define the width of the body; the width being substantially equal to the cross sectional perimeter dimension of the inner muntin grid element; and the body defining one corner notch for at least three of the corners of the inner muntin grid element, each of the corner notches extending into the body of the outer muntin grid element; the corner notches being spaced apart to align with the corners of the inner muntin grid element when the body is wrapped around the inner muntin grid element.

Per claim 69, Reed does not show each of the outer muntin grid element (9) in the form of a tube having a continuous sidewall that encloses a length of the inner muntin grid element longitudinal edges and sides to hide the edges and sides of the inner grid element from view on both sides of the insulating unit as the channels.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 571-272-6864. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Dunn can be reached on 571-272-6670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phi D A/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3633

Phi Dieu Tran A

2/15/2010